

**IN THE UNITED STATES
BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In re:

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA,
a political subdivision of the State of
Alabama,**

Debtor.

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Case No. 11-05736-TBB

Chapter 9

DECLARATION OF SHEILA TYSON

**CHAPTER 9 PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA (DATED June 30, 2013)**

Sheila Tyson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares as follows:

1. I am currently the President of the West End Community and the Executive Director of the Friends of West End. I am also the immediate Past President of the Citizens Advisory Board, which is the formal governing association for all of the 99 neighborhoods of the city of Birmingham. Each of these groups is active in advocating for betterment of the poor, young and elderly citizens of the city of Birmingham.
2. I have been working with citizens in this community for more than 30 years.
3. The residents of our community have been subjected to more than a 300% increase in their sewer and water bills over the last decade – way above the national average.
4. More than 1/3 of all families with children under 18 are already struggling below the federal poverty level and would be devastated by even the most modest increase.
5. Almost 1/3 of our elderly citizens rely exclusively on Social Security, and have no flexibility in their budgets to adjust for yet another increase in sewer without impacting their ability to buy food and medicine.
6. This entire sewer debacle has already greatly reduced the property values of many homes, and the proposed, indefinite increases will continue to degrade the value of homes that our

residents have worked so hard to build, buy and maintain.

7. Because sewer and water bills are linked by law, any increase in sewer bills threatens thousands of families ability to provide clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing for their children.
8. It should be noted that the construction and design of the sewer lines were purposely drawn so that the financial impact of the sewer system (which is a necessity for economic activity and growth in Jefferson County) would be on the backs of the poorest residents.
9. Although the sewer fiasco was perhaps the tipping point, Jefferson County's bankruptcy includes much more than just the sewer debt. As a result, all of our County's residents should share equally in paying back this debt.
10. The citizens of the city of Birmingham should not be responsible for debts created by corruption that the banks themselves participated in facilitating. It is a slap in the face to every citizen, every taxpayer and every sewer rate payer to be told that they have to commit themselves, their children and their children's children to paying banks who crafted a criminal conspiracy that led to the largest municipal bankruptcy in the history of the United States of America.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 31, 2013, at Birmingham, Alabama



Sheila Tyson